



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ST. LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

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HEADQUARTERS
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FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

INJUNCTION AND CONTEMPT LEGISLATION

Washington, July 20.—The Injunction Limitation bill, H. R. 23635, is still before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The attorneys for the manufacturers and railroads are appearing in opposition to the measure. When they have concluded President Gompers and a few others will make arguments in behalf of the bill. Letters coming to the Senators from trade unionists are having a very perceptible effect in favor of it. If this practice is continued and the Senators are given to clearly understand that they will be each held responsible if Congress adjourns without this legislation being enacted, the Senators undoubtedly will heed the directions given them by their constituents.

The Contempt bill, H. R. 22591, was brought before the House with a special rule, on July 8. The rule was adopted by a vote of 152 to 27. After considerable debate the bill was passed on July 11, by a vote of 233 "ayes" to 18 "nays". The opposition to Labor's measures is steadily growing less. If Labor watches its interests vigilantly the following 18 gentlemen will not have many more opportunities to vote "nay" when its interests are before Congress for action: Cannon, Dalzell, Danforth, Dodds, Griest, Harris, Howell, Howland, Langham, McCreary, Madden, Mann, Moore (of Pa.), Payne, Sterling, Tilton, Utter and Weeks. The passage of this measure (the Contempt bill), again verifies the contention made by Labor that if the bills advocated by Labor can be brought up on the floor of Congress, there is no question or doubt about their passage. This "Contempt" bill is now before the Senate Committee on Judiciary, together with the Injunction Limitation bill. Timely pressure brought to bear upon Senators by "the folks back home" will bring it out of Committee and secure its passage before Congress adjourns.

CLEAN OUT VICTORY FOR BUILDING TRADES

Washington, July 20.—The Carpenters District Council of Dupage County, Ill., won a strike for an increase of 5¢ per hour all over the district. At Hinsdale they received a 75¢ per hour increase. This strike was brought about by the contractors declaring for the open shop. The strike lasted four weeks. All the building trades resisted as a unit. The contractors reversed their position and signed the union shop agreement, gave the increase in wages, signed an agreement for two years, conceded the painters and building laborers an increase of 5¢ per hour and confined operations to eight hours per day and four hours on Saturdays.

BRITISH WORKMEN'S INSURANCE ACT

Washington, July 20.—The labor group in the British House of Parliament, in cooperation with David Lloyd George, Chancellor of the Exchequer, are quite elated at the prospects of the good effects anticipated from the working out of the Insurance Act, which went into effect July 15, and is another step in the great forward movement which began with the Compensation Act and the Old Age Pension measure. Mr. George says: "The Insurance Act will help the mother at child birth and will inaugurate a great national campaign against consumption. Instead of devoting our strength to fight our neighbors abroad, we are now going to organize to fight social evils at home. I am convinced that it will be hailed throughout the whole country as one of the most beneficent measures ever enacted by the people, and now that it will soon be in full operation we intend to press forward and put all hands to the great work of freeing the land which was meant for the use of the many; but which has drifted into the hands of the few. We must free it for the people and for their children forever." This Act insures against sickness and invalidity. In 7 selected industries it insures against unemployment. The principal features of the Act are: (1) It applies to the whole of the industrial population, including the Army, Navy and mercantile marine. (2) Insurance is compulsory for all employed persons in receipt of wages or salaries. (3) Its administrative machinery is largely in the hands of the people insured—in the main, trade unions and fraternal organizations. (4) The rates of contribution and benefits are the same for all employed persons, regardless of age, provided they come into the scheme before July, 1913. (5) The cost is divided among employers who will pay 6 cents per employee per week, the employee who will pay 8 cents per week, and the Government which will pay 4 cents per person per week. (6) The Act does not interfere with the existing "Compensation for Injuries" Act, or the "Employers' Liability" Law. (7) It is preliminary to the Old Age Pension Act, persons reaching the age of 70 coming under the provisions of the Old Age Pension Law. (8) It makes special provision for women at the time of child birth. (9) It involves a special effort to deal with tuberculosis. (10) It provides for the preservation, and will stimulate the growth of existing organizations like trade unions and fraternal organizations promoted to advance thrift and cooperative self help. (11) Its compulsory features will be particularly helpful to those who heretofore have been short sighted and thriftless. It will also prevent wholesale imposition formerly practiced upon people by private insurance companies. (12) It will open the door to a broad international scheme of compulsory insurance for all workers in all countries by admitting transfers to and from foreign countries with which special arrangements may be made. The selected industries against unemployment are those in the building and engineering trades, designedly chosen for the experiment because of their especial irregularity of operation, more than fourteen million men and women will be included at the very outset. The initial cost of government sanatoria will be \$7,500,000 and the annual allowance for upkeep and maintenance will be \$5,000,000.

GOOD WORK WELL DONE

Billings, Mont., July 20.—Through the efforts of the Trades and Labor Assembly men repairing streets and constructing street railroads have been granted an eight-hour day at \$3 per day where they formerly worked 10 hours for \$2.40 per day. This equals a reduction in hours of 20% and an increase in the hourly wage rate of 56%.

Washington, July 20.—Officials of the International Typographical Union report an increase of 3,512 members during the last year. Number of members on pension roll, 1,038. Total earnings of members during the year, \$53,378,902, an increase over last year of \$3,608,234. Average yearly earnings of members \$992.04, an increase over last year of \$17.91 per member. Itemized accounts of local progress are noted at Butte and Anaconda, Mont., where wages have been increased 25¢ per day, making the rate for night work \$34.50 and for day work \$31.50 per week. At Ogden, Utah, hand, ad and floor men got an increase of 25¢ and foremen 50¢ per day. Machinist's operators an increase of \$4.50 per week for six machines or less, to an increase of \$9 per week for more than six machines. Vincennes, Ind., secured an increase of \$2 per week for journeymen and \$1 per week for foremen after ceasing work a few days. Edmonton, Can., obtained an increase of \$1 to \$2 per week. Prince Rupert, B. C., reduced working time one-half hour and advanced wages 25¢ per day. Duluth increased the newspaper rate \$1 per week all around, after June 21, 1918, another dollar per week will be added. The hand compositors on newspapers in New Orleans secured an increase of 3¢ per hour, agreement covering five years. At Elmira, N.Y., a new three year contract was made, the minimum for machine operators on evening papers being set at \$20 per week and on morning papers \$22, double price for holidays and Sundays. Job printers obtained \$2 per week increase. At the end of two years hand compositors will receive the same minimum wage as machine operators. The members at East Liverpool, Ohio, made a very substantial agreement. At New Westminster, B.C., the 7½ hour day was instituted in newspaper offices the wages being \$23 for night and \$30 per week for day work. The German printers at Cleveland, O., obtained a raise of \$2 per week for all hand and stone men and \$1 per week for machine operators. The Mailers' Union at Los Angeles, Cal., obtained an increase of 25¢, making their wages \$3.75 per day. The foremen secured 50¢ per day at Aurora, Ill., a new contract to run for five years in which a progressive increase will be made from year to year. The Bohemian Printers of New York City secured advances of \$2 per week to machine and job hands, machine operators time reduced to 7 hours per day. At La Crosse, Wis., the printers signed up another shop which heretofore has been opposed to the organization.

POLISHERS STILL SHINING

Washington, July 20.—The Polishers have succeeded in improving working conditions at the Russ Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, O. They secured an increase in wages averaging \$1.25 per week from the York Musical Instrument Makers of Grand Rapids, and after a lengthy conference with the Monitor Stove Company of Dayton, O., a satisfactory working agreement was made with that company. A grievance which had been some time under dispute with the Rothborn, Sord Stove Company of Aurora, Ill., was adjusted.

CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS

Washington, July 20.—The twenty-eighth annual convention of the Trade and Labor Congress will be held in Guelph, province of Ontario, Canada, beginning Monday, September 9 next. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has grown to proportions where it has become the great militant force in Canada for the protection of the interests of organized and unorganized workmen. The indications are that the coming convention will be more largely attended than any previous one.

Washington, July 20.--In a recent issue of the Toledo Union Leader the following article, under the caption, "Legion Proves His Bigness," appears: "Karl Legien, German Socialist, now touring this country, has shown he is a big man by acknowledging his party was mistaken in Germany when it opposed the trade union movement. Legien came to America on invitation of the American Federation of Labor. About his first public utterance was that he looked on the A. F. of L. as the only trade union movement in this country, and that he would advise other dual bodies to join with it. Little publicity has been given this bold stand of Legien's by men who are clearly disappointed and who would be immensely pleased if he favored one of the several per capita gathering crowds that call themselves unions, and who delude their followers that they in time will supplant the A. F. of L., when, in truth, they only divide workers. Legien has done more than declare for the A. F. of L. In several speeches he has said that the German Socialists have seen they made a mistake, years ago, when they opposed the trade unions. Now they realize they were wrong, and have adopted the view that every gain made on the industrial field equips men for political action and statecraft. The first theory of German Socialists was carried to America by revolutionists who were forced to flee from the wrath of Prince Bismarck, the Iron Chancellor. These revolutionists were brave men and broke ground for present day democratic sentiments that are reaching European thrones. But these men were mistaken, economically. They believed that 'things can't get better till they get worse,' and therefore opposed union demands on the industrial field. This theory is called 'the philosophy of misery,' which was vigorously combatted by Karl Marx, who wrecked the Workmen's International association to stop it from being controlled by the anarchists who urged the 'misery' theory. When the anarchistic movement was destroyed many of its members drifted into the Socialist movement, where they propagated their doctrine. When these men were driven out of Germany in the early '70's they found America, then entering on industrial changes, a fruitful field for their theory, and the result of their efforts is still apparent although the doctrine now takes the form of opposition to the A. F. of L., which is recognized by European Socialists as the American labor movement, and who sit with A. F. of L. delegates in the international trade union movement. Men like Legien, however, now see their mistake, and are big and broad enough to acknowledge it. The American Socialist movement has not yet developed a man big enough to take similar action, but it's only a question of time, for the A. F. of L. is slowly convincing the most stubborn that it is indestructible."

USUAL DETECTIVE STUNT

Topeka, Kans., July 20.--In an action brought against Ezra Day, an organizer for the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, on the complaint of a detective of the Topeka Railway company, charging assault and battery, Day was acquitted by a jury in just three minutes and the costs taxed against the complaining witness. Under the statute if it is found that prosecution is malicious the complaining witness can be taxed for the costs and committed to jail in default of payment. In this case it was found that the prosecution was malicious, and the judge directed that the detective, Fred L. Howard, be committed to jail until the costs were paid. The detective, however, had disappeared before the court order was executed.

UPHOLSTERERS STRIKE

Minneapolis, July 20.--The upholsterers in this city are on strike against one of the bedding companies for an increase of 5 per cent. This organization is 100 per cent strong in Minneapolis.

MACHINISTS' VICTORIES

Washington, July 20.--Local machinists of Kansas City, Mo., have signed up a three year contract with the breweries for an eight-hour day and a minimum wage running from 48¢ in 1912 to 50¢ in 1913 and 53¢ per hour thereafter. At Cincinnati the local made a yearly agreement for an eight-hour day at 40¢. At St. Louis the rate was made 50¢ per hour. A satisfactory agreement was made by the Cincinnati local with the General Machinery Company of that city and on the New Orleans, Mobile and Chicago Railroad an agreement was made on a federation basis to include machinists, Boilermakers, Blacksmiths and Sheet Metal Workers, including all apprentices and helpers, the rates being, Machinists 39¢ per hour, apprentices 8¢ first year, 10¢ second, 17¢ third and 22¢ fourth year. Blacksmiths 39¢ to 41¢ per hour. Helpers 19¢ per hour. Boilermakers 39¢ per hour, helpers 18¢ per hour, Copper and Tin Smiths 34¢ to 35¢. Apprentices 13¢ to 22¢. At Wheeling, W. Va., an agreement was made with the Wheeling Mould and Foundry Company in which a minimum rate of 35¢ was secured for journeymen. Apprentices 10¢ to 20¢ per hour. A 9 hour day was included in the last three agreements. The local at Louisville has signed satisfactory agreements with a number of repair shops. At St. Paul, Minn., an advance of 2¢ per hour was obtained for 45 machinists employed by the Nott Fire Engine Company. On the Western Maryland Railroad a very satisfactory agreement was reached, making the minimum rates 34¢ and 36¢ per hour for journeymen, according to grade, and 10¢ and 16¢ per hour for apprentices.

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS

Washington, July 20.--The bureau of immigration and naturalization of the Department of Commerce and Labor has just issued its May, 1912, immigration bulletin. The influx of Southern Italians continue in one unbroken deluge, with material additions from Northern Italy. The total number of immigrants admitted during the month mentioned reached 113,635. Southern Italians head the list numerically with 19,619, and then comes Polish, 16,971; German, 7,985; Hebrew, 6,541; Irish, 5,759; Greek, 5,724; English, 5,478; Scandinavian, 4,326; Croatian and Slovenian, 3,728; Slovak, 3,400; Magyar, 3,316. The balance of the immigrants was divided between twenty-nine other nationalities. The total number of immigrants landing at United States ports from July, 1911, to May, 1912, eleven months, aggregate 745,747. During this period there were 14,575 aliens debarred. During this same period it is interesting to note the numbers and vocations given of those comprising the swelling immigration tide: Farm laborers 160,737; laborers, 119,803; servants, 104,044; tailors, 16,979; clerks and accountants, 11,607; carpenters, 9,807; shoemakers, 7,552; farmers, 6,975; seamstresses, 6,897; miners, 5,299. Those debarred as likely to become a public charge numbered 12,004. The number of emigrant aliens departing for the eleven months totals 310,029.

SCOPE OF 8-HOUR LAW

Washington, July 20.--That the government has come to the conclusion that the eight-hour law has the endorsement of the great body of citizens of this country is shown by the recent action of the attorney general in rendering an opinion that the law applies to every mechanic and laborer employed by the United States. With the recent approval by the president of the Hughes eight-hour bill the law approved August 1, 1892, has been materially extended, and with the opinion just rendered by the attorney general there seems to be sufficient sentiment in favor of the law to guarantee its rigid enforcement.

GOOD CONTRACTS FOR RAILWAY TRACKMEN

Washington, July 20.--The Maintenance of Way Employees, popularly known as Trackmen, have recently made contracts with the following railroads: The M. St. P. & Sault Ste. Marie, (The "Soo") The New Virginian Railroad, the Seaboard Air Line, The Canadian Northern, The Boston and Albany, the Boston & Maine, the Atlantic Coast Line, The Grand Trunk Pacific, The Norfolk & Southern and the Southern Railways. On five of these roads the new agreements will carry with them a total increase of wages of \$220,000 per year. On the others the individual increases will be from 15% to 20% per day. The settlement on the Southern was reached through a board of arbitration, Judge Fritchard, chairman, the new wage rates being retro active and becoming effective May 1, 1912.

BOILERMAKERS, PRUDENT AND FORESIGHTED

Washington, July 20.--The Boilermakers enacted the following progressive provisions at the tenth convention recently held at Little Rock. Per capita tax to Grand Lodge increased from 50¢ to \$1. per month for journeymen and 60¢ per month for apprentices and helpers. 50% of this amount will go into the strike benefit fund, 30% for general expenses, 11% for disabilities and deaths, 7% for the Journal and 2% for transportation of delegates to convention. The death benefits were increased from \$100 to \$250 and a disability benefit of \$800 in cases where both eyes, both hands or both feet are lost. The Journal will be made free and sent to each individual member. Special Grand Lodge assessments will be abolished. All strikes in future must be sanctioned by the Executive Council in order to secure strike benefits. The Grand Lodge will bond all the financial officers of local and district lodges. The journeymen Boilermakers and Helpers' lodges are to be consolidated. The new laws will take effect January 1, 1913.

LONGSHOREMEN PROGRESSING

Washington, July 20.--The Longshoremen have made a new agreement with the Great Lakes Towing Company in Cleveland, Ohio. They secured a slight advance in wages and "the thirteen hour work day", which must be understood to mean the right to obtain their full days work within thirteen consecutive hours. At St. Johns, New Foundland, they secured an increase of 15% in wages. New locals have been organized at Lawrence, Ore.; Victoria, B.C., Redondo Beach, Cal., Portland, Ore., Honolulu, T. H., Wailuku, Mani, T. H., Tacoma, Wash., and Vancouver, B.C.

BLACKSMITHS ADVANCING

Washington, July 20.--The Blacksmiths have renewed their agreement with the Southern Railway and allied lines, in conjunction with the federated shop trades on that system, by which working conditions were improved and an increase in wages secured for Blacksmiths and Helpers.

ROLLING MILL MEN'S CONTRACTS

Washington, July 20.--The Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers has signed a new scale with the French Mill at Oakland, Cal., and with the Standard Chain Company at Columbus, O., thereby securing an increased rate of wages.

WORKMEN CANNOT WAIVE "RIGHTS"

Washington, July 20.—The United States Supreme Court in a recent decision, upheld that feature of the Employers' Liability Act which prevents an employe from waiving his rights in order to obtain employment from a railroad by signing a contract for benefits in a company's so-called "Voluntary Relief Association." It cannot in the future be held as a defense for the railroad and a prevention from the recovery of damages in case of negligence. A brakeman employed by the Washington Terminal Company lost his arm in a collision. A suit for damages followed. The District of Columbia Court ruled the section of the Employers Liability Act, relied upon by the Company, was unconstitutional. The case was appealed and was reversed. Another trial was had which resulted in the court directing a verdict for the Company, this time upon the ground that it was not a common carrier. The District Court of Appeals ruled the Company was a common carrier. The United States Supreme Court now finally settles both issues by deciding in favor of the crippled brakeman and allowing him \$7,500 damages.

MANUFACTURE OF CLOTHES

Washington, July 20.—A bulletin just issued by the Federal Census Bureau credits New York City as being first among the great manufacturing centers of the world and that the leading industry in the city and the State of New York is the manufacture of women's clothing, with a production in 1909 valued at \$272,518,000. The second most important industry in the city and state is the manufacture of men's clothing and shirts; the productive value of which in 1909 was \$266,075,000. These two industries gave employment to 189,467 wage earners in the State during that year.

TAYLOR SYSTEM TABOOED

Washington, July 20.—Congressman Wilson, Chairman of the Committee on Labor, on July 15, made a favorable report to the House of Representatives on the Pepper bill, prohibiting the officials of the Army, Navy and other manufacturing departments of the Government from instituting the stop watch, "Taylor" or other high speed working systems in shops, navy yards and arsenals of the U. S. Government. Senator Borah, of the Senate Committee on Education and Labor, has also been authorized to report this bill favorably to the Senate.

SHORTER DAY FOR STREET RAILWAY MEN

Washington, July 20.—The Massachusetts legislature has enacted a law regulating the hours of labor of street railway employes after January 1, 1913. Regular trainmen will be limited to 9 hours regular work, to be performed within 12 consecutive hours. For substitutes 8 hours must elapse between the close of one day's labor and the beginning of the next.

BREWERY WORKERS' PROGRESS

Cincinnati, O., July 20.—The Executive Board of the Brewery Workers reported new contracts signed at Montgomery, Ala.; Winnipeg, Can.; Baker, Oregon, and several others under negotiation.

Helena, Mont., July 20.—Three employers have been arrested and fined for violation of the state eight hour law.

ARBITRATION COMMISSION APPOINTED

Washington, July 20.--The Arbitration Board selected to handle the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers demands for an increase of pay on all railroads East of Chicago, have been selected by Chief Justice White of the U. S. Supreme Court, Charles P. Neill, Commissioner of Labor and Judge Knapp of the Commerce Court. The Board will consist of Oscar Straus, Chairman, former Secretary of Commerce and Labor; Dr. Albert Shaw, Editor of Review of Reviews; Otto Eidlitz, of the New York Building Trades Employers' Association; Frederick N. Judson, attorney of St. Louis; Dr. Charles R. Van Hise, President University of Wisconsin; Daniel Willard, President B. & O. R. R., and P. H. Morrissey, former Grand Master of the B. R. T. Messrs. Willard representing the Railroads and Morrissey the B. of L. E. This is the first arbitration board appointed through the medium of the Erdman Act. It is claimed that the Engineers demands would total \$7,500,000 annually. The firemen have also asked for an increase, which would amount to \$20,000,000 annually. Demands by other railroads employees will lay in abeyance pending the forthcoming award.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BILL PASSED

Washington, July 20.--As stated in the news letter of last week, that it was expected a vote would be taken in the House of Representatives on the next Calendar Wednesday, July 17, on the Department of Labor bill, this has materialized, and on Wednesday, July 17, the motion for the "engrossment and third reading of the bill was put." Mr. Mann, of Illinois, withdrew his demand for the reading of the engrossed bill and no other opposition being forthcoming, the question was taken and the bill was passed without a dissenting vote. The bill has now been referred to the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and it is confidently expected to receive favorable consideration in that Committee.

PLATE PRINTERS CONVENTION

Washington, July 20.--At the convention of the International Steel and Copper Plate Printers Union, held in this City on June 15, President Gompers and Secretary Morrison of the A. F. of L. made addresses on timely subjects in their words of welcome to the Plate Printers. The present officers of the International are: Thomas O'Neill, of New York, President; Charles T. Smith, Washington, Secretary-Treasurer; Thomas Hullen, Albany, N. Y. Vice-President, and Thomas G. Kean, of New York, general organizer.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION BILL

Washington, July 20.--On Wednesday, July 17, the bill H. R. 21094, providing for the creation of a Commission to investigate industrial relations, passed the House without a dissenting vote. A similar bill will be reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. It is practically decided that this measure will be passed this session.

SAFETY APPLIANCE ACT SUSTAINED

Washington, July 20.--The Standardization of Equipment Act passed by Congress in 1910, on appeal by the Atchafalpa, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway has been sustained by the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, for the 8th Circuit, and the penalties assessed against the Santa Fe R. R. ordered enforced.

SHORTER DAY ADVOCATED BY ENGINEERS

Washington, July 20.—A wide spread and interesting discussion is being maintained in the monthly journals of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and other railroad organizations in behalf of a shorter workday. The individual members in their correspondence are vigorously demanding an eight-hour workday on switch engines in yard service and a maximum of not more than 10 hours in road service, the latest utterance being from Mr. Ousley of Eldon, Mo., in which he says: "Here's for a shorter day with longer pay. We might then have the means of life within easy reach and be able to devote some leisure time to education, religion, literature, music and science, together with many other pleasant, useful and instructive things to be taken up by our brothers who are now held down to long hours of work."

TELEPHONE GIRLS WIN CONCESSIONS

Boston, Mass., July 20.—It is reported that 1200 girl members of the Boston Telephone Operators' Union have won their first big concession by threatening a strike. The telephone exchange officials have posted this notice: "Beginning tomorrow, July 15, operators will be given an eight-hour day without reduction in pay; time and a half for all overtime and Sundays, and holiday work. Half hour overtime allowance for work five minutes after the regular hours. One round trip car fare per day for girls who work 'split tricks' and the elimination of compulsory 'split tricks' for girls who have been in the employ of the company 18 months or over." The telephone company is now considering the question of wages. At present the rates range from \$4 a week for beginners to \$10 per week after one year's service.

"SERVICE LETTERS" UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Washington, July 20.—At the instance of a demand made by railway employes the Indiana legislature enacted a law requiring the railway officials to furnish "Service Letters" to such employes who resign or who are dismissed from the service. The case of the State against I. C. Sullivan, Superintendent of the Wabash Railroad, was carried to the local court at Peru, and the court declared the "Service Letter Law" unconstitutional, basing its decision on the Adair case that an employer may discharge a man for any cause or for no cause and is not required to give a reason, leaving the same right to an employe to quit the service of an employer for any cause or for no cause.

INDIANA COURT ALERT

Washington, July 20.—The Indiana law requiring freight train cabooses to be 24 feet long and to have two four wheel trucks has been sustained in the lower court at Indianapolis and a fine of \$100 has been imposed upon the P. C. & St. L. Railroad for disobedience. The use of cabooses, as defined by the law in question, is not compulsory until 1914, but the company disobeyed a provision of the act in failing to make the proper changes in a caboose which had been sent to the shop for general repairs.

A VIGILANT FEDERAL COURT

Washington, July 20.—The Federal Court at Kansas City, Mo. has fined the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad \$200 for violation of the Safety Appliance Act in running a train with less than 75% of the air brakes coupled.

MUSICIANS INTERESTS THREATENED

St. Louis, Mo., July 20.--The theatrical managers who control a large majority of the theaters in the United States and Canada have determined to lock arms with the American Federation of Musicians. The managers claim that the demands of the musicians are exorbitant. They have decided to dispense with orchestras in all the theaters under their control and engage union orchestras to travel with their musical and spectacular shows. This plan, if successfully carried out, will throw thousands of local musicians out of employment. It is proposed to dispense with orchestras for dramatic shows and only use the proposed traveling orchestras for musical and spectacular shows. In other words, the managers intend to employ a few union musicians traveling from place to place as a club, to destroy each of the 600 local unions of the American Federation of Musicians. The musicians have placed the campaign in charge of President Weber, who has full power to act.

RAILWAY CARMEN FORGING AHEAD

Washington, July 20.--The Railway Carmen on the Southern Railway and allied lines in conjunction with other crafts of the system federation have recently secured a renewal of their agreement in which a substantial increase in pay and beneficial working rules were secured. The new agreements with the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad and another on the Big Four Railroad, carried with them an average increase in pay of a little over 2¢ per hour for each man, with time and a half for all overtime and holidays. The Carmen also made a new agreement with the Pere Marquette Railroad by which improved shop conditions and an increase in pay was included. The Carmen have recently organized new lodges at the following points: Paragould, Ark.; Portal, N.D.; Gladstone, Mich.; Montreal, Canada; Philadelphia, Pa., and Humboldt, Canada.

STATIONARY FIREMEN PROGRESSING

Washington, July 20.--During the last 60 days the stationary firemen have organized new locals in Ottawa, Can.; Haverhill, Mass.; Jersey City, N. J., and Wilmington, Del. They are meeting with good success in renewing agreements with employers and have just concluded new and satisfactory agreements in Kansas City, Mo.; Omaha, Neb.; and St. Paul, Minn., which will secure for their members an eight-hour day and a six day working week, on an average wage of \$3.17 per day. Less than 10 years ago the stationary firemen in these cities got about \$2 for a 12 hour day, and were compelled to be on duty 365 days per year.

INCREASE FOR CIGARMAKERS

Hamilton, Ont., July 20.--The union Cigarmakers of Hamilton, Ont., have secured an advance of 50¢ per thousand on mold work and \$1 per thousand on hand work. This increase will benefit over 600 persons employed in Hamilton, London, and Montreal. This advance was secured without any discontinuation of work.

STEAM FITTERS WIN STRIKE

Providence, R. I., July 20.--The Steam Fitters' strike, which has been on in this city since April 13 has ended. The Steam Fitters will return to work and will receive a substantial increase in wages, an eight-hour work day and half holiday on Saturday throughout the whole year.